

Law Enforcement (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700592

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

Riverside County contains numerous legal OHV riding areas within its borders. These areas include the Wildomar Recreation area and the Starwest Motocross Park. In addition to these legal riding venues, there are lands governed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which contain OHV riding trails located throughout the county. Although these sanctioned venues exist, large portions of OHV riders choose to operate their vehicles illegally on public or privately owned lands. This has resulted in numerous complaints from citizens living near these areas. From June 2007 through September 2009, there were approximately 9,300 calls for service from the public regarding illegal OHV use.

With California's population anticipated to increase over 80 percent within the upcoming decade, OHV issues will also increase and put tremendous pressure on public lands and subsequently law enforcement. Land management agencies across California are closing more public lands to OHV recreation because of conflicts with endangered species and other resource concerns. Throughout Riverside County, these include the fringe-toed lizard and the desert tortoise. Per the California Department of Fish, the fringe-toed lizard is State Endangered and Federally Threatened while the desert tortoise is State Threatened and Federally Threatened.

Increased OHV use has also resulted in conflicts with hikers, equestrians, other recreational users, and private landowners. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement (R.O.V.E.) Team's proposed project consists of OHV education and enforcement. In the past, the team has been successful in both facets. Members of the team protect the rights of private land owners and ensure safe OHV operation within the legal venues available throughout the county. The primary purpose of the requested funding is to cover manpower expense.

Although the R.O.V.E. Team is a full-time entity within the Sheriff's Department, the requested funding will increase both the enforcement and educational components. Presently the team deploys approximately three days a week. That number periodically increases with the use of previously acquired grant funds to cover overtime expenses. Enforcement and education occurs on weekends, weekdays, and holidays popular with OHV riders during the peak season, and as necessary throughout the year. Deputies enforce OHV laws and regulations and undertake various administrative duties (i.e. data collection, crime analysis, emergency operations, and community outreach events). During every contact with an OHV enthusiast, deputies educate and provide literature on legal riding venues and equipment used to operate OHV's safely.

The R.O.V.E. Team is the primary OHV enforcement and education entity within the department and has certified all of its members with two-wheel and four-wheel safety course operation certifications. The team currently has in its fleet six street legal dirt bikes, four UTV's, four ATV's, two 37' trailers, two trucks, and five SUV's (Ford Expedition XLT's). The majority of this equipment was purchased/leased with OHMVR grant funds. With a large OHV fleet, safe storage of this equipment is a necessity. The majority of the equipment is stored at a local storage facility in the city of Beaumont. The facility provides covered parking for both truck and trailers. Additional OHV's are stored in a small roll-up container. The storage facility protects the equipment from foul weather, theft, etc.

The R.O.V.E. Team currently participates in Allied Agency Meetings, both within and out of the county, Public Meetings, Police Activity League (P.A.L.) functions, Youth Programs, Static Displays, Safety Expos, Law Enforcement Education Programs, and Media Relations. Over the last two years the R.O.V.E. Team has attended several local "Supercross" events in the cities of Anaheim and San Diego. These events provide an opportunity to contact thousands of off-highway enthusiasts and a chance to educate people on what Riverside County has to offer to the off-road community.

In the beginning of 2009, members of the R.O.V.E. Team completed the design and production of a brochure that contains a map displaying all legal riding venues within Riverside County, laws related to off-roading, off-highway safety principles, and allied agency contact information. The brochure is distributed to all citizens contacted during enforcement deployments, meetings, and safety and informational expositions.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

Riverside County contains 7200 square miles of unincorporated land. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of residents grew by over 76 percent making Riverside the fastest-growing county in California. According to the most recent census data, Riverside County has a population of more than 2.0 million people. The county's vast land area and its short distance from a large portion of the population results in an abundance of opportunities for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use.

Two sensitive habitats have been identified within Riverside County; the fringe-toed lizard and the desert tortoise. The fringe-toed lizard's habitat contains no legal riding venues on or near it. Enforcement is vitally important to the survival of this species. The fringe-toed lizard is State Endangered and Federally Threatened according to the California Department of Fish and Game. Their habitat, which encompasses around 100 square miles, is near the unincorporated communities of Sky Valley, Desert Haven, Thousand Palms, and Del Web.

Both legal and illegal OHV use in the desert tortoise's habitat threatens this species' survival. The desert tortoise is a small creature and can be difficult to see. There are more than a few BLM OHV legal riding trails throughout the habitat of the desert tortoise. This creature is clearly at risk by OHV enthusiasts who are recreating legally. For the OHV enthusiast who is not recreating legally, the risk to the desert tortoise increases. Some of these enthusiasts choose to recreate in the open desert where it is not legal, thus placing an increased risk to the desert tortoise. Their habitat, which is more than 100 square miles in size, is primarily east of the Coachella Valley. The desert tortoise is State Threatened and Federally Threatened according to the California Department of Fish and Game.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

In the present state, the R.O.V.E. Team averages 270 man-hours of enforcement and education per week. Toward the latter part of 2010, the R.O.V.E. team will average approximately 240 man-hours of enforcement and education per week. This will equate to eight members (reduced from nine) deploying three days a week for ten-hours a day. The team typically deploys on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. With the use of grant funds requested to cover overtime expenses for OHV enforcement and education at various venues, the man-hours will significantly increase. The R.O.V.E. team works closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Code Enforcement, Tribal Law Enforcement, the California Highway Patrol, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and other allied law enforcement agencies.

Enforcement and education occurs on weekends, weekdays, and holidays popular with OHV riders during the peak season and as necessary throughout the year. Deputies not only enforce OHV rules and regulations, but also undertake various administrative duties to include data collection, crime analysis, public meetings, emergency operations, and community outreach events. During every contact with an OHV enthusiast, deputies educate and quite often provide literature on legal riding venues available and equipment used to operate OHV's safely.

Previous year OHMVR funding was used to increase the ten-hour work day, and for enforcement and educational deployments on Sundays and holidays. The current funding being sought to cover manpower expenses, will be used in the same manner.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

On June 21, 2007, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department implemented the full-time Riverside County Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement (R.O.V.E.) Team. The team consists of law enforcement personnel who will conduct OHV enforcement and education on a full-time basis. The team initially consisted of (1) Sheriff's Sergeant and (8) Deputy Sheriffs' from the Special Enforcement Bureau (S.E.B.); all of whom are trained on the operation, enforcement, and education of OHV's.

In addition to the nine personnel assigned to the full-time R.O.V.E. Team, certain individual Sheriff Patrol stations located throughout the county maintain their own off-road enforcement program. In the current fiscal times, their enforcement is unpredictable. Most of their enforcement is complaint based. The off-road equipment utilized by these various stations is maintained in satisfactory working order. When deployed, personnel from these stations increase the number of law enforcement man-hours being put-forth in the off-road enforcement and educational arenas.

It is anticipated that in the latter part of 2010, the R.O.V.E. Team will be temporarily reduced to (1) Sheriff's Sergeant and (7) Deputy Sheriffs'. There are various reasons for the temporary reduction in the size of the team. It is important to note that this current grant being sought will reflect the reduction in personnel.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The unincorporated areas of Rancho California, Bad Lands, Gilman Hot Springs, Sunnyslope, Lake Matthews, Indio Hills, Painted Hills, Box Canyon, Chiriaco Summit, and North Shore are of high priority. Rancho California, Bad Lands, Gilman Hot Springs, Sunnyslope, and Lake Matthews are private lands and contain no legal OHV areas. Enforcement is conducted to prevent private property intrusions. In the Indio Hills area there is no legal OHV use, but the area encompasses a portion of the fringe toed lizard's habitat. The fringe toed lizard is State Endangered and Federally Threatened. Enforcement is to prevent private property intrusions and survival of the creature. Painted Hills, Box Canyon, Chiriaco Summit, and North Shore have legal BLM OHV trails. These areas include a portion of the desert tortoise's habitat. The desert tortoise is State and Federally Threatened. These areas are frequently patrolled to prevent both unlawful and safe OHV use, and the destruction of the desert tortoise and its habitat.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The goal of the proposed project is to prevent unlawful intrusions on private and public lands, habitat preservation, and direction to the OHV enthusiast on the whereabouts of legal venues and proper safety equipment. The project will also ensure that OHV enthusiasts using legal venues are operating there equipment within the parameters of federal, state, and local laws. Personnel participating in the project will also ensure enthusiasts are staying safe. By keeping legal venues safe for the OHV enthusiast, and enforcing private property intrusions, the program will encourage more people to choose legal recreation within Riverside County.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The R.O.V.E. Team meets monthly with members the Bureau of Land Management BLM, other sheriff's stations, and the Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City Police Departments. On the eastern portion of Riverside County these agencies, to include the R.O.V.E. Team, deploy monthly or semi-monthly during the peak OHV season to locations previously described. The focus of the multi-agency deployment is education and enforcement as it relates to OHV use. All law enforcement participants encourage safe riding in legal venues and prevent private property intrusions and sensitive habitat destruction by means of enforcement and education.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

There is no permit available to host an OHV event in the unincorporated areas of Riverside County.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

The current OHV training program is instructed by R.O.V.E. Team members. Students attend an eight to ten hour period of instruction which includes the proper and safe way to operate a departmental OHV and how to enforce applicable laws. The class also includes instruction on how to educate the public on safe riding practices, legal venues available, and the existence of sensitive resources throughout the county. The TREAD lightly pledge is also instructed to all students.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
- The Riverside County Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team (R.O.V.E.) works closely with BLM and the US Forest Service. Many of the legal riding venues located throughout the county exist on federal lands. Enforcement and educational programs are typically a multi-agency approach with BLM, the US Forest Service, and the R.O.V.E. Team working in conjunction. The Riverside County off-road ordinance and the California Vehicle Code are enforced on federal lands by the Sheriff's office. There is an agreement with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and both these federal agencies to conduct enforcement on federal lands.
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:
- The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District (the District) has directed its OHV in-lieu funds to support the planning, maintenance, administration, enforcement, restoration, conservation of trails and trail heads, open-space areas, and inactive park facilities associated with the illegal use of off-highway motor vehicles in County and District lands. In addition, the OHV in-lieu funds are being used to support educational programs involving off-highway motor vehicle education at the District nature and historical facilities. The OHV in-lieu money that the state provides to the District is extremely important for the continued maintenance, restoration, conservation of trails and trail heads, open-space areas and inactive park facilities associated with the illegal use of off-highway motor vehicles. Additionally, the State funds help a great deal with the District's environmental education programs that focus in environmental responsibility, and respect for private property and habitat.

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
- N/A
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Riverside County Sheriff's Department		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-03-14-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Riverside County contains numerous legal OHV riding areas within its borders. These areas include the Wildomar Recreation area and the Starwest Motocross Park. In addition to these legal riding venues, there are lands governed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which contain OHV riding trails located throughout the county. Although these sanctioned venues exist, large portions of OHV riders choose to operate their vehicles illegally on public or privately owned lands. This has resulted in numerous complaints from citizens living near these areas. From June 2007 through September 2009, there were approximately 9,300 calls for service from the public regarding illegal OHV use.</p> <p>With California's population anticipated to increase over 80 percent within the upcoming decade, OHV issues will also increase and put tremendous pressure on public lands and subsequently law enforcement. Land management agencies across California are closing more public lands to OHV recreation because of conflicts with endangered species and other resource concerns. Throughout Riverside County, these include the fringe-toed lizard and the desert tortoise. Per the California Department of Fish, the fringe-toed lizard is State Endangered and Federally Threatened while the desert tortoise is State Threatened and Federally Threatened.</p> <p>Increased OHV use has also resulted in conflicts with hikers, equestrians, other recreational users, and private landowners. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement (R.O.V.E.) Team's proposed project consists of OHV education and enforcement. In the past, the team has been successful in both facets. Members of the team protect the rights of private land owners and ensure safe OHV operation within the legal venues available throughout the county. The primary purpose of the requested funding is to cover manpower expense.</p> <p>Although the R.O.V.E. Team is a full-time entity within the Sheriff's Department, the requested funding will increase both the enforcement and educational components. Presently the team deploys approximately three days a week. That number periodically increases with the use of previously acquired grant funds to cover overtime expenses. Enforcement and education occurs on weekends, weekdays, and holidays popular with OHV riders during the peak season, and as necessary throughout the year. Deputies enforce OHV laws and regulations and undertake various administrative duties (i.e. data collection, crime analysis, emergency operations, and community outreach events). During every contact with an OHV enthusiast, deputies educate and provide literature on legal riding venues and equipment used to operate OHV's safely.</p> <p>The R.O.V.E. Team is the primary OHV enforcement and education entity within the department and has certified all of its members with two-wheel and four-wheel safety course operation certifications. The team currently has in it's fleet six street legal dirt bikes, four UTV's, four ATV's, two 37' trailers, two trucks, and five SUV's (Ford Expedition XLT's). The majority of this equipment was purchased/leased with OHMVR grant funds. With a large OHV fleet, safe storage of this equipment is a necessity. The majority of the equipment is stored at a local storage facility in the city of Beaumont. The facility provides covered parking for both truck and trailers. Additional OHV's are stored in a small roll-up container. The storage facility protects the equipment from foul weather, theft, etc.</p> <p>The R.O.V.E. Team currently participates in Allied Agency Meetings, both within and out of the county, Public Meetings, Police Activity League (P.A.L.)</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Riverside County Sheriff's Department
 Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	<p>functions, Youth Programs, Static Displays, Safety Expos, Law Enforcement Education Programs, and Media Relations. Over the last two years the R.O.V.E. Team has attended several local "Supercross" events in the cities of Anaheim and San Diego. These events provide an opportunity to contact thousands of off-highway enthusiasts and a chance to educate people on what Riverside County has to offer to the off-road community.</p> <p>In the beginning of 2009, members of the R.O.V.E. Team completed the design and production of a brochure that contains a map displaying all legal riding venues within Riverside County, laws related to off-roading, off-highway safety principles, and allied agency contact information. The brochure is distributed to all citizens contacted during enforcement deployments, meetings, and safety and informational expositions.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Sergeant Notes : The rate shown is an overtime (time and a half) rate. The QTY represents one sergeant.	270.000	81.053	HRS	21,884.00	0.00	21,884.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : The rate shown is an overtime (time and a half) rate. The QTY represents seven law enforcement officers.	1890.000	54.539	HRS	103,079.00	0.00	103,079.00
	Sergeant Notes : The rate shown is a base/straight time rate. The QTY represents one sergeant.	1440.000	53.430	HRS	0.00	76,939.00	76,939.00
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : The rate shown is a base/straight time rate. The QTY represents six law enforcement officers.	8640.000	40.369	HRS	0.00	348,788.00	348,788.00
	Total for Staff				124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Riverside County Sheriff's Department
 Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
Total Program Expenses					124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Riverside County Sheriff's Department
 Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		124,963.00	425,727.00	550,690.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment